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DEPARTMENT OF  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE  
CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD.

# SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

## MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

JUNE 1, 1917 to SEPT. 30, 1918

CHARLES E. HARPER  
*Chairman*

C. I. T. GOULD  
*Vice-Chairman and Treasurer*

M. E. HARRISON  
*Secretary*

MARIE W. PRESSTMAN  
*Secretary to the Board*

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OFFICE  
204 EAST LEXINGTON STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD.

Baltimore, Md., December 16, 1918.

To His Excellency

Emerson C. Harrington,

Governor of Maryland.

Sir:

I beg to hand you herewith the second annual report covering the operations of the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors, of which I have the honor to be Chairman.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, which are hereto appended, will give in detail the work this Board has accomplished during the year ending September 30, 1918.

The growth of the business has not developed as it would naturally have done, owing to war conditions and the "flu" epidemic, but our Board does not consider the volume of the business as of paramount importance.

This Board had its origin not in a desire primarily to make money for the State, but to safeguard the morals of our people, especially to protect the children of our State from the insidious poison of pictures of an immoral and questionable nature.

This thought has been uppermost in the minds of your Board in the performance of their duty, and the Board has endeavored to perform this duty fearlessly and without partiality or prejudice, considering always first the moral features of our work, at the same time endeavoring to be fair to the great motion picture interests, which is doing so much towards the entertainment and education of the people.

To the credit of this great educational and popular institution be it said they have, in the main, lent their co-operation in placing this business on a higher moral plane.

This Board has endeavored continuously to foster all real educational and artistic ventures of the producers and so far as possible prohibit the exhibition of all immoral or suggestive productions.

That we have been successful in this respect is evidenced by the fact that in the case of appeal to the courts the judgment of our Board was sustained.

I trust the work of our Board for the year will meet with your approval and likewise merit the approbation of the public, which we are endeavoring faithfully to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES E. HARPER,

Chairman.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The following report of the operations of the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors covers a period of sixteen months, including the year ending September 30, 1918, and the four preceding months. The report has thus been made to coincide with the State's fiscal year, the first annual report of the Board having covered the period from June 1, 1916, to May 30, 1917.

During the above period the Board collected fees amounting to \$23,348, and after defraying all expenses of salaries and maintenance turned over to the State Comptroller \$5000, with a balance on hand September 30, 1918, of \$3392.01.

The fines collected from infractions of the law during the above period amounted to \$185. This total might be greatly increased if the Board had in its employ any paid inspectors. Under the present system the Board appoints volunteers, who, while some excellent work has been done, do not give sufficient assistance to cover all theaters in the State. Members of the Board have visited motion picture houses in all parts of the State and have appointed inspectors in various towns. There are approximately 200 motion picture parlors in Maryland, a little more than half of which are located in Baltimore City, the balance being located in widely scattered towns. Inspectors are furnished blanks on which to make fortnightly reports to the Board. A free admission card is supplied to those workers who show a desire to co-operate with the Board in preventing infractions of the law. The card is withdrawn when the inspector fails to render reports. A weekly list of films rejected and cut-outs ordered is issued by the Board. Such a list is supplied to the Police Boards and any individuals who show a willingness to assist in the enforcement of the law. The Board has been in communication with the Pennsylvania State Board of Censors and the Ohio and Kansas State Boards, making an exchange of reports with a desire to harmonize its work, if possible, with the action of other States.

A total of 1410 films were examined from June 1, 1917, to September 30, 1917, with the result of 1150 being passed, 8 rejected and 252 eliminated. An analysis of the report for year ending September 30, 1918, shows a total of 3453 films, comprising 8070 reels original and 470 reels duplicate, examined, with the result of 2822 being passed, 582 eliminated and 49 rejected. Twenty of the latter were reconstructed and passed, usually following suggestions of the Board, who endeavor to assist the owners in revising films which would otherwise be prohibited altogether.

The Board has re-examined a total of 197 films, comprising 857 reels, during the above year for purposes as follows:

- 1.—To ascertain whether cut-outs ordered have been properly made.
- 2.—Reconstructed films presented for final decisions.
- 3.—Rejected films submitted on appeal.

Only one appeal from the decisions of the Board has been taken to court. This was in the case of the film entitled "War Brides." In this case the judgment of the Board was upheld.

The Board has instructed the Exchanges to submit posters and like advertising matter for examination, control of the same being vested in the Board under Section 15 of the Acts 1916, Chapter 206. Posters found to be objectionable are rejected.

All scenes prohibited in films are prohibited in posters advertising them. Misleading advertising is also prohibited.

On September 16, 1917, the Hon. Wm. F. Stone, member of the Board, died. Mrs. Marguerite E. Harrison was appointed Treasurer pro tem. until March 19, 1918, when Mr. C. I. T. Gould, having qualified as a member of the Board, was made Treasurer.

By enactment of the Legislature, the Board will turn over to the State Comptroller all fees received on and after October 1, 1918, receiving appropriation for its salaries and expenses as designated under the budget system.

# STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For the Period October 1, 1917 to September 30, 1918

## RECEIPTS.

Fees—Original Reels, 8063 @ \$2.00.....	\$16,118.00
Duplicate Reels, 484 @ \$1.00.....	484.00
Sale of Substitute Seals.....	91.50
Fines .....	30.00
Total Receipts.....	\$16,723.50

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Salaries—Members of Board.....	\$6,125.00
Office and Operator, etc.....	2,554.50
	\$8,679.50
Rent .....	720.00
Repairs to Building.....	14.00
Film Seals.....	995.20
Office Furniture and Fixtures.....	135.20
Stationery, Printing and Office Supplies.....	327.90
Light, Heat and Power.....	350.22
Picture Machine Supplies.....	105.96
Traveling Expense.....	64.44
Telephone .....	112.84
Janitor Service.....	117.00
Premium on Bond.....	17.50
Excess Insurance.....	13.85
Refund—Overcharge .....	14.00
Ice and Water.....	15.25
Postage .....	13.83
Towel Service.....	12.60
Sundries .....	40.74
Total Expenses.....	\$11,750.03
Receipts and Fines Remitted to State Comptroller.....	5,000.00
	16,750.03

Excess of Disbursements Over Receipts.....	\$26.53
Balance on Hand September 30, 1917.....	3,418.54

Balance on Hand September 30, 1918..... \$3,392.01

Made up as follows:	
In Bank.....	\$3,177.02
Cash on Hand.....	214.99
	<u>\$3,392.01</u>

Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors,  
204 E. Lexington Street, Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:—

In conformity with your request, we have made an audit of the cash transactions of your Board from October 1, 1917 to September 30, 1918, and have found same to be correct.

We submit attached hereto classified statement showing the Cash Receipts and Disbursements of your Board for the period, showing a balance on hand September 30, 1918, of \$3,392.01.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM A. GILLESPIE.

Deputy State Auditor.

# STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Period June 1, 1917 to October 1, 1917

\*Detailed Statement appended to last report.

Total Receipts.....	\$7,548.39
Total Disbursements.....	4,129.85

Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements..... 3,418.54

Made up as follows:

In Bank.....	\$3,416.51
Cash on Hand.....	2.03
	<u>\$3,418.54</u>

**RESULTS OF ALL EXAMINATIONS OF FILMS MADE BY  
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF CENSORS  
JUNE 1, 1917, TO SEPT. 30, 1917**

No. Films Examined	No. Reels Original	No. Reels Duplicate	No. Films Approved	No. Films Rejected	No. Films Eliminated
1410	3323	78	1150*	8	252

\*One passed for women only.  
\*One passed for men only.

**RESULTS OF ALL EXAMINATIONS OF FILMS  
OCT. 1, 1917 TO SEPT. 30, 1918**

No. Films Examined	No. Reels Original	No. Reels Duplicate	No. Films Approved	No. Films Rejected	No. Films Eliminated
3453	8070	470	2822	49*	582

\*20 Reconstructed and passed.

RE-EXAMINATIONS		APPEALED TO COURT	
No. Films Re-examined	No. Reels Re-examined	Title	Manufacturer
197	857	War Brides.....	Selznick.....6 reels

**RULES ADOPTED BY THE  
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS  
IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 16 of the Acts 1916, Ch. 209**

- 1—All persons desiring to submit films or views to the Board for examination must fill out the application blanks provided by the Board, giving title, date of release, number of reels, number of feet, whether original or duplicate, character of film, whether comedy, drama, news, etc., and name of manufacturer. Applications must be signed by an authorized agent or representative of the owner or lessor of the film or views to be examined.
- 2—Applications must be accompanied by check or cash covering full amount of censorship fee, and no films or views will be examined unless paid for in advance.
- 3—All applications for the examination of duplicate prints must be made in the same manner and at the same time as applications for originals. Otherwise they will be treated as originals and the full censorship fee of \$2.00 per reel charged, instead of \$1.00 as provided in the law for duplicates.
- 4—Reels must be delivered to the Board at least two days in advance of release date. Reels will be examined by the Board within 24 hours after they are delivered at the office, whenever possible, and will be returned on the day after they are examined, or on the same day if practicable.
- 5—All reels will be examined by the Board in the order in which they are received. Exception to this rule will be made only when application and fee have been received in advance and a definite appointment has been made for the examination by the exchange manager or agent. News reels and serials will receive immediate attention.
- 6—Substitute seals to replace approval seals lost or destroyed will be supplied to exchange managers, agents and other duly authorized persons if application is made on the form provided

for the purpose, giving title and serial number of film for which a new seal is desired. When the applicant is unable to furnish the serial number of the film for which he wishes an approval seal he must make an affidavit, when required by the Board, that the picture for which he wishes an approval seal is the print examined by the Board, and that all eliminations have been made as required.

- 7—Reissues of subjects previously examined by the Board will not be subject to the censorship fee, provided that application is made by the original applicant, in the form of an affidavit, duly witnessed and sworn to before a justice of the peace, that the new print is identical with that examined by the Board, and that changes or eliminations made in the first print will be made in the reissue. The Board reserves the right, whenever advisable, to order such films sent in for re-examination.
- 8—Substitute seals for use in the above cases will be supplied under the conditions specified above at a cost of 25 cents each.
- 9—All films or views must be presented to the Board as originally produced unless otherwise specified on the application. In case the print presented has been subject to eliminations or changes previous to examination, a list of the same must accompany the application, and the approval seal will be issued only for the print as presented.
- 10—Title of subject, name of manufacturer, and number of parts as stated on application must correspond to title, name of manufacturer and number of parts as shown on the screen.
- 11—Any change of title, or any alterations or additions made to any film or view after it has been examined by the Board must be submitted in writing for the approval of the Board, and if the change meets with the Board's approval it will issue a certificate to this effect.
- 12—The Board reserves the right to withhold seals of approval on films in which changes or eliminations have been ordered, pending the making of such changes and eliminations by the exchange manager or agent. If, upon re-examination, the film is found to be satisfactory, the approval seal will be attached. There is no charge for such re-examination or for re-examination on appeal.

Statement of Prosecutions for Violations of the Acts 1916, Ch. 209  
for Period June 1, 1917 to Sept. 30, 1918

Title of Picture	Where Exhibited	Nature of Offense	Amount of Fine
Romance of Redwoods	West End Theater Baltimore, Md.	Eliminations not made	\$5.00
Little Soldier Girl	Parkway Theater Baltimore, Md.	Not censored	\$25.00
Sentimental Charlie	Comedy Theater Baltimore, Md.	Eliminations not made	\$25.00
Atonement	Wilson Theater Baltimore, Md.	Eliminations not made	\$25.00
Mute Appeal	Blue Mouse Baltimore, Md.	Not censored	\$25.00
Auction of Virtue	Blue Mouse Baltimore, Md.	Exhibition of condemned poster	\$30.00
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea	Ocean City, Md.	Not censored	\$25.00
It May Be Your Daughter	Garden Theater Baltimore, Md.	Eliminations not made	\$25.00
Total, \$185.00			\$185.00

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